

Interestingly, this is the only time in the Gospels that Jesus is recorded as writing anything.

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### Condemnation?

*“When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? (11) She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.” (John 8:10-11)*

Jesus did not condemn this woman. One might ask, “why not?” No one questioned her guilt. Is this somehow a commentary that Jesus was not bothered by her sin?

Not at all! Jesus did not have to condemn her. She was already condemned (as are we all.) Moreover, Jesus was not sent to condemn the world but to offer salvation to all mankind.

*“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. (18) He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*

(John 3:17-18)

Jesus told the woman that He did not

condemn her but commanded her to stop sinning. He offered this woman a new beginning.

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### Jesus Preaches The Gospel

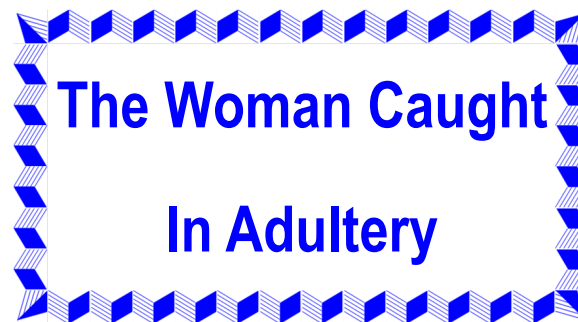
*“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” (John 8:12)*

Immediately after Jesus told the woman that He did not condemn her, He told all that were still present that He is the Light of the world, and if they follow Him, they will not desire to live sinful lives.

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**Life in Christ = no condemnation**  
**Life in sin = earned condemnation**

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*“And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. (3) And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,” (John 8:2-3)*

This pamphlet will examine the Biblical account of the woman caught in adultery. Ultimately, Jesus offers this sinful woman a new life.

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### Scripture Class Interrupted

We see in the passage above that Jesus sat down in the temple to teach the people the Word of God. The religious leaders interrupted His class with a question about the law of Moses.

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### The Sinner Publicly Presented

*“They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. (5) Now*

## THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY

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*Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?"* (John 8:4-5)

After bringing the guilty woman to Jesus, they tell Him what the law of Moses demanded as punishment for this sin and ask Jesus what He thought of it.

Observations:

- The woman was caught in the act of adultery.
- Where is the man who was likewise involved in the act?
- The law required that the man also be put to death.

*"And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death."* (Leviticus 20:10)

The Pharisees were not genuinely concerned with keeping the law of Moses. If that had been their purpose, they would have brought both the man and the woman. The fact that the man was not also accused speaks to the motives of the religious leaders.

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### Motives Revealed

*"This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not."* (John 8:6)

They asked Jesus this question attempting to trap Him. In their minds, Jesus could not answer it without violating a law.

Jewish law required the death penalty for adultery; therefore, if Jesus said that the woman should be allowed to live, He would stand in opposition to the law of Moses.

However, Roman law forbade local governments from enacting the death penalty. Rome reserved the death penalty for its jurisdiction. Thus, if Jesus said she should be stoned, He would be endorsing violation of Roman law.

Either way, Jesus would have been trapped. The Jewish leaders would either accuse Him of breaking the law of Moses or endorsing rebellion against Roman law. It seemed to be a scenario in which the Pharisees could not lose.

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### Jesus' Responds

*"So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. (8) And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground."* (John 8:7-8)

Finally, after they repeatedly asked Him to answer, Jesus said that the sinless one should throw the first stone. He demonstrated the wisdom of God! He endorsed the law of Moses.

Jesus also publicly pointed out the hypocrisy of these religious men. Anyone without sin was invited to throw the first stone. No one did!

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### The Pharisees Respond

*"And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst."* (John 8:9)

Each of these men were convicted and left the gathering. The oldest/wisest departed first, continuing until not one remained.

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### What Was Jesus Writing

No one knows what Jesus wrote on the ground, as the Bible does not tell us. Since it is not in the Scripture, God did not consider it necessary for us to know.

There are, however, some intriguing speculations that have been made. For example, some suggest that Jesus was recounting the Ten Commandments. These were initially written in stone by the finger of God, and conjecture indicates that Jesus, God the Son, may have been doing likewise in the dirt. Others wonder if Jesus wrote specific sins of the individuals present. Still, by example, others think He was teaching that we are to be slow to speak in difficult situations.

The fact that Jesus wrote something is important (that is why it is in the Bible.)